

# Present Continuous

Action, happening now!

## A

## STRUCTURE

## AM/IS/ARE + ING

I **AM** driving.

He/she/it **IS** working.

We/you/they **ARE** doing.



## B

The present continuous is used for **actions** going on **in the moment of speaking** and for actions taking place only for a short period of time. It is also used to express development and actions that are arranged for the near future.

Present continuous is also known as present progressive.

*Please don't make so much noise. I'm working.*

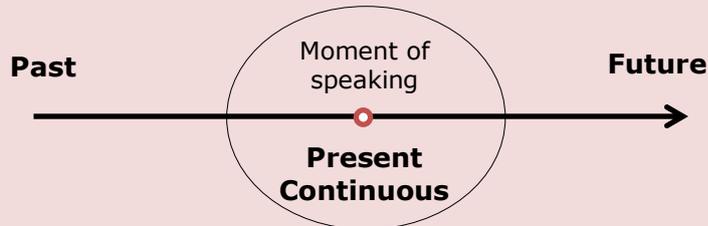
*Where's Margaret? She's having a bath.*

*Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more.*

# ACTION

---

# NOW



## C

| Affirmative          | Negative                | Question              |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| I am going           | I am not going          | Am I going?           |
| You are going        | You aren't going.       | Are you going?        |
| He, she, it is going | He, she, it isn't going | Is he, she, it going? |
| We are going         | We aren't going         | Are we going?         |
| You are going        | You aren't going        | Are you going?        |
| They are going       | They aren't going       | Are they going?       |

## D

**For something which we think is temporary:**

*Michael is at university. He's studying history.*

*I'm working in London for the next two weeks.*

**For something which happens again and again:**

*It's always raining in London.*

*They are always arguing.*

**To talk about the future and has been arranged or planned:**

*Mary is going to a new school next term.*

*What are you doing next week?*

# Exercises

## 1) Fill in the blank spaces with the present progressive tense of the verbs in parentheses.

- a) He is fixing my bike in the garage. (fix) 
- b) I \_\_\_\_\_ Mom in the kitchen. (help) 
- c) My sister and I \_\_\_\_\_ television in our bedroom. (watch)
- d) They \_\_\_\_\_ with us to the museum. (come)
- e) We \_\_\_\_\_ some pictures for Aunt Susan. (paint)
- f) The boys and girls \_\_\_\_\_ in the hall. (dance)

## 2) Complete the sentences with one of the following verbs in the correct form:

- a) You are working hard today. Yes, I have a lot to do. (work)
- b) I \_\_\_\_\_ Christine. Do you know where she is? (look for)
- c) It \_\_\_\_\_ dark. Should I turn on the light? (get)
- d) Have you got an umbrella? It \_\_\_\_\_ to rain. (start)
- e) You \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of noise. Could you be quieter? (make)
- f) Why are all these people here? What \_\_\_\_\_ (happen)?

## 3) Use the words in brackets to complete the questions.

- a) Is Joseph working this week? No, he's on holiday. (Joseph/work)
- b) Why \_\_\_\_\_ at me like that? What's the matter? (you/look)
- c) Jenny is a student at university. Is she? What \_\_\_\_\_? (she/study)
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio or can I turn it off? (anybody/listen)
- e) How is your English? \_\_\_\_\_ better? (it/get)

## 4) Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- a) I'm tired. I am going to bed now. Goodnight! (go)
- b) We can go out now. It \_\_\_\_\_ any more. (rain)
- c) I \_\_\_\_\_ it very much. (enjoy)
- d) Catherine phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France.  
She \_\_\_\_\_ a great time and doesn't want to come back. (have)
- e) I want to lose weight, so this week I \_\_\_\_\_ lunch. (eat)
- f) Angela has just started evening classes. She \_\_\_\_\_ German. (learn)
- g) They had an argument. They \_\_\_\_\_ to each other. (speak)

## 5) Read this conversation between Brian and Sarah. Put the verbs into the correct form.

**SARAH:** Brian! How nice to see you! What **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ (you/ do) these days?

**BRIAN:** I **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ (train) to be a supermarket manager.

**SARAH:** Really? What's it like? **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ (you / enjoy) it?

**BRIAN:** It's all right. What about you?

**SARAH:** Well, actually I **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ (not /work) at the moment.

I **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to find a job but it's not easy. But I'm very busy.

I **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ (decorate) my flat.

**BRIAN:** **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) it alone?

**SARAH:** No, some friends of mine **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ (help) me